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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The problem of spare parts for ships' engines is one of the Polish Merchant Fleet's weak points. In the present circumstances, Poland is not in a position to manufacture any major spare parts for engines. This is due to the following circumstances:
  - a. Shortage of experts who leave the shipping industry to better paid posts, for instance at mechanical cooperatives.
  - b. Fear of taking responsibility for possible failure in carrying out experiments and therefore fear of being suspected of economic sabotage.
  - c. Shipyard production is geared to the manufacture of spare parts for engines of newly-built ships exported to the USSR. These are steamships, and therefore production of spare parts for their engines, which are much more simple, does not require either highly trained experts or raw materials of high quality.
  - d. Lack of materials, such as copper, zinc, brass non-ferrous metals and electric cables (those used at present are either of East German production or purchased illegally in the West).
2. The Technical Inspectorate of the Polish Ocean Lines makes efforts to cope with this shortage of spare parts by sending ships for overhaul to foreign shipyards. During such overhauls abroad ships have instructions to supply themselves with spare parts for at least two years.

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